7: International Bank N, S-4 (1951) 1952 MH1 Iraq MH1

162 women. The census returns, in fact, record an extraordinarily large excess of women over men in some parts of the country—e.g., 57 percent in the three rural *qadhas* of Muntafiq province—but there is good reason to believe that such figures, while indicative of the true position, are generally exaggerated.

Occupation

162 463 The major occupation is agriculture and animal husbandry. Nearly two thirds of the people live in the rural villages. As handicrafts are rarely found in the villages and only a few people are absorbed by such secondary occupations as trade and transport, it is likely that 85 to 90 percent of the rural population lives directly off the land.

Many of the inhabitants of the smaller and even some of the larger towns are also engaged in agriculture. In Tel Afar, a town of 20,000 in the principal grain-growing region of Mosul province, over three quarters of the male population whose occupation was recorded gave it as agriculture. This, however, is probably exceptional and the proportion would, no doubt, be considerably less than half in many smaller towns. Even in the largest cities, there is a smaller but far from negligible proportion of the population employed in agriculture, principally in the production of vegetables, dates and other fruits or in raising livestock for the city market.

In all, the number of people in families whose income is derived directly from work on the land is probably in the neighborhood of 60 percent of the total population. This method of expressing the percentage is used advisedly. A much higher figure could certainly be given for the number of people occupied since most [464] of the rural population is employed to some extent. Unemployment, as opposed to underemployment, is largely an urban problem. In the rural areas the number of men whose occupation was recorded by the census is often nearly as large as the number over [859 887] 10 years of age. This, no doubt, corresponds closely to the facts, since even young children tend flocks and perform other light work on the land while old men help with such tasks as threshing. [462] Women, too, are an important source of agricultural labor, particularly at harvest time, although this is inadequately reflected in the census.

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In the towns, on the other hand, the occupations of a much smaller proportion of the males were recorded. And, moreover, many of those that were recorded fell into various ill-defined categories, which very probably include a large number of the unemployed or the unproductive (e.g., school children). There is, also, far less opportunity for work by women in the towns.

The estimate of 60 percent for the agricultural population would leave rather less than two million people in the families of those employed in other occupations. In this sector the labor force may be estimated at about 400,000 to 450,000 men and some 30,000 women or about 450,000 in all, with a considerable margin of error on either side. Some idea of the distribution of these workers is given in the following table.

TABLE 1

NONAGRICULTURAL LABOR FORCE
(in thousands)

Commerce	110
Personal and public service	70
Manufacturing and handicraft	75
Transport	45
Government (including police)	55
	355
Other categories; errors and omissions	95
	450

This table, which is necessarily a compound of industrial and occupational classifications and consequently contains a few duplications, must be interpreted as only a rough estimate giving broad orders of magnitude.

After agriculture, commerce is certainly the most important occupational group; the census records nearly 50,000 (including a few women) in the four largest cities alone. There is probably at least an equal number in the rest of the country, since one of the main functions of the smaller towns is to serve as centers of retail

x539 443 AND Hamed related:

Once in Hilla there was a cloth merchant of moderate wealth, and his name was Abdul Rashid Mejid. This merchant used to buy cloth from the great merchants of Baghdad and he used to sell it in small quantities to the tribesmen and the people of Hilla. He made no great profit from his shop, but he had enough x539 money for the rent of his house and for his food. He kept • 462 no servants in his house, for the work of the house was 356 done by his wife and by his only daughter, a girl of great beauty, in the sixteenth year of her life. The name of the girl was Salma.

And one day it happened that at the hour of noon the hub in their house was empty of water, and the mother of Salma said to her: Go to the river and bring water for the hub. And Salma put a jar on her shoulder and she went to the river. But it was her habit not to go to that part of the river which ran through the town and was near to her house, for she was ashamed that she, a daughter of a merchant, should be seen drawing water, for the women who drew water were the wives and daughters of the porters, and the fellahin, and the leather workers and the coppersmiths, but the daughters of the cloth merchants used to have servants to draw water. Yet her father would have no servant, for his trade was not great. So she went out of the back of her house through the palm trees to a secluded part of the river.

x539 When Salma reached the river she was hot and tired, for the time was noon and the season was summer. She looked around her, but she could see not a single living soul, nor was there a sound from the bazaar or from the town, for the whole world was sleeping. So she thought: I will cool and refresh myself before I return to the house.

were reported in 1923, 1927 and 1931. Since 1931, cholera has been almost completely absent from the country, although one imported case was recorded in 1939, when the disease was epidemic in Afghanistan and Iran. 164

Strict quarantine regulations are enforced, and travelers from India, Pakistan and Ceylon, as well as pilgrims from Mecca, without valid certificates of immunization against cholera are retained in quarantine centers for a period of 7 days. Mass immunization with cholera vaccine is carried on among the populations in the border provinces whenever epidemics are reported from the adjacent territories. At the time of the recent epidemic in Egypt, in 1947, immunization was compulsory for all travelers entering the country and for the inhabitants of towns and villages along the Syrian frontier. 744 484 164 751 164

Helminthiases. SCHISTOSOMIASIS. Schistosomiasis, caused by *Schistosoma haematobium*, has probably been present in the lower Tigris and Euphrates river basins since ancient times. It is highly endemic in the southern and the central provinces, where the intermediate snail host, *Bulinus truncatus*, is found in widespread but often localized foci. The disease is prevalent among the children and among the agricultural and other laborers who work in infested waters, particularly the men and the boys, who are exposed to infection to a greater extent than the women. It reaches maximum proportions between 10 and 20 years of age, but is usually negligible in early childhood. Transmission is seasonal: it takes place from May to the end of November, but primarily between June and October, when infected snails are most abundant. The insanitary customs of the inhabitants, associated with the frequent use of the canals for religious ablutions and the severe summer heat which is conducive to bathing in any convenient body of water, are contributory factors. The infection rates average 18 to 25 per cent in the irrigated districts of the delta, but vary from zero 164 136 164 462 164 515 164 361

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164 361 369 Basra to 75 per cent at Al Qurnah, in the fork between the rivers. In Muntafiq, the mean rate was 47 per cent, and in Diwaniya, 26 per cent, although some districts were heavily infected and others practically free. In central Iraq the disease was more irregular in distribution. In Baghdad *liwa* the infection rates averaged 35 per cent, but approached 80 per cent in some localities. In Kut, the mean was 48 per cent, with a decrease in prevalence toward the Iranian frontier. In Hilla, it was 15 per cent, with variations from 5 to 50 per cent, and in Kerbela, 28 per cent, with variations from 18 to 48 per cent. In the areas studied in Diyala *liwa* it ranged from 28 to 60 per cent, and in Dulaim it approximated 36 per cent. Subsequent surveys have revealed 11 to 18 per cent infection in limited foci near the marshes in Mosul *liwa*.

164 361 369 742 In a survey conducted in Baghdad in 1950-51,[57] ova of *S. haematobium* were found in 25 per cent of the urine samples collected from 285 schoolchildren and in 46 per cent of the samples from 242 inhabitants in hut settlements on the outskirts of the city. The prevalence was around 20 to 25 per cent in the suburbs, but reached 83 per cent in foci along the main road to Teheran.

164 462 Indigenous cases of *S. mansoni* infection have not been reported, but numerous cases of rectal involvement with *S. haematobium* have been observed. A dermatitis produced by nonhuman schistosome cercariae is common in the south and is often responsible for considerable disability among the agricultural workers.

164 462 312 744 Schistosomiasis constitutes one of the most important disease problems in Iraq. It is of major public health and economic significance, and the possibility of its spread with the expansion of irrigation is a matter of considerable concern to the government authorities. An active schistosomiasis control program is carried on by the Bilharzia Section of the Department of Endemic Diseases. This section maintains snail destruction and treatment units in the affected

provinces, and conducts research and field investigations on the distribution and the control of the disease and the intermediate snail host. In the 7 years 1944-50, from 15,800 to 27,300 persons were treated annually in government hospitals and dispensaries. The disease is considered commonplace in most areas, however, and probably not over 5 to 6 per cent of the infected individuals seek treatment under ordinary conditions. Since 1949, special dispensaries have been established in Baghdad, Basra and Kufa, while mobile clinics tour the most seriously infected districts. In 1950, there were 11 mobile units for the treatment of schistosomiasis, malaria and hookworm infection among the rural populations.

ANCYLOSTOMIASIS. Ancylostomiasis is widespread in the irrigated areas, but the exact distribution and severity of the infection in the different provinces are not accurately known. *Ancylostoma duodenale* is the only species found in the foci studied. The infection rates are generally estimated at 10 to 20 per cent in the northern provinces and at 40 per cent in the southern. They are especially high in the Amarah and the Al Qurnah regions, but decrease toward the south, and are relatively low in the districts along the Shatt al Arab. In a study reported in 1939,[47] fecal specimens from apparently healthy men, 18 to 20 years of age, from various parts of the country were examined for hookworm ova. The presence of ova was detected in 25 per cent of the specimens from 125 men from Baghdad and in 46 per cent from 135 men from the rural districts of Baghdad *liwa*. Comparable examinations revealed ova in the specimens from 26 per cent of the individuals examined from Diyala *liwa* and from 25 per cent of the individuals from Dulaim. The degree of infection is usually mild, but serious cases with hemoglobin indices as low as 10 per cent are not infrequent.

Treatment facilities are provided by the schistosomiasis control units, as well as by the government hospitals and dispensaries.